

Our Very Own North Pole

Santa, (that would be Tony Paciulli) and his loyal elves (his staff) are busy, busy at their workshop (the Meetinghouse Bank) preparing for their special time of the year. For five years now, Tony has been heading a food drive which feeds a dozen or so families in need throughout the community in an effort to lessen some of the stress from the holiday season.

The project, another of Tony's community give back idea's, has no special name, it is not backed by any major organization, and does not go through an organized food pantry. It is solely funded and operated by the men and women at Meetinghouse, along with the strong and caring members of our community. Charity begins at home, and that's where Tony likes to keep it. At this time of year when stores open at midnight, merchandise flies off the shelves at breathtaking speed, and marketing campaigns to purchase glut every airway, this coming together of our community, recaptures the spirit of Christmas past; charity, good will and a caring for those less fortunate.

There may not be any real fanfare, and the donors may be anonymous, but you can't keep an event like this a secret, not in Tony's neighborhood. Merchants and neighbors have already donated food and dollars to making this year another success! The snow ball effect pick up momentum as they tell two people and they tell two people...!

One ingenious idea of Milton Hill Fitness and Spa was to welcome you to work out free for one day if you brought some food to donate to the drive! Inspired! Food comes from all over the community and beyond. Rumors are that from as far away as Quincy, can goods were donated. Those who prefer donate gift cards from grocery stores.

When the mountain of food is fully collected the elves go to work. Food is sorted so that a balanced couple of boxes can be delivered, anonymously, during the week before Christmas. If you nominate a family, it is your job to get the food to them, but the families are not to know from where the food was obtained. Along with the boxes of non-perishables, there is usually a gift certificate to Shaw's to be sure the family can purchase some milk to go with that cereal.

For Meetinghouse Bank and its President, Tony Paciulli, this is what community banking is all about. Service does not stop at the teller's window or the manager's desk. The neighborhood is our service arena. It's personal. We are your neighbors, and we mean it.

Enhance your Holiday experience. Recapture a more personal spirit of this time of year. To donate food, time, effort, energy or dollars or to nominate a family in need, contact Tony Paciulli at apaciulli@meetinghousebank.com . Drop by the bank; see how things are shaping up. Tony will be happy to show off the piles of food he has collected!